

JUN 01 2006

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facsimile transmittal

To: Assistant Commissioner of Patents From: Brian K. Johnson

Fax: 571-273-8300 Date: June 1, 2006

Phone: Pages: 7

Re: 09/496,549 - 1996P07613US05 CC:

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Notes: Attached please find the following documents:

➤ Response to Office Action (8 pp)

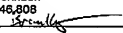
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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICATION NO. 09/496,549	FILING DATE 02/02/2000	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR George King	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. 1996P07613US05	
via FAX to 571-273-8300 Mail Stop (none) Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450			EXAMINER Qureshi, Afsar M.	
			ART UNIT 2667	PAGE NUMBER 1

Response To 03/16/06 OFFICE ACTION

<p align="center">CERTIFICATE OF MAILING/TRANSMISSION PURSUANT TO 37 C.F.R. § 1.8(a)</p> <p align="center">I hereby certify that this paper is, on the date shown below, being sent by:</p>	
<p align="center"><b>MAILING</b></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Deposited with the United States Postal Service on this ____ day of _____, 2006 with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to Mail Stop _____ Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450</p>	<p align="center"><b>FACSIMILE</b></p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> transmitted by facsimile to the Patent and Trademark Office; to 571-273-8300 this 1st day of June 2006.</p>
<p align="right">Brian K. Johnson Reg. No. 48,808 Signature </p>	

INTRODUCTORY COMMENTS

1 A telephone interview was held with the examiner Afsar Qureshi (Joel Miller, reg. no. 29,955, on behalf of the applicant) to discuss the rejection based upon the McHale reference under sec. 103. Although no specific agreement was reached, the applicant thanks the examiner for the opportunity to discuss the application. In view of the discussion and in response to the office action, the following are provided:

Responsive to the **OFFICIAL Action** mailed March 16, 2006, Applicant(s) submit the following amendments and/or responsive remarks.

Applicant hereby authorizes the PTO to charge any and all necessary fees due, or provide reimbursements of excessive fees paid, to deposit account No. 19-2179.